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1962/11/07

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
ABOX TO

~~TOP SECRET~~

Nov 7 9 32 PM '62

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ACTION: USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1223

EYES ONLY STEVENSON AND McCLOY

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DC/T:

EXCOM

D one by
Acceptance

We have received from the Soviet Ambassador here a confidential indication that the Soviet Government takes strong exception to the list of weapons we consider offensive in accordance with the exchange of letters between President Kennedy and Mr. Khrushchev which you furnished Mr. Kuznetsov (Urtel 1606, November 2).

The Soviets take position that Kennedy-Khrushchev agreement related only to missiles. They also consider quarantine proclamation an illegal act and that they will ignore list of offensive weapons in that document.

Our primary purpose is to get the MRBM's and IL-28 bombers out and we would be prepared to go far in reducing the list of offensive weapons in order to achieve this purpose. When Kuznetsov is in a position to negotiate (which may not be until Moscow gets him instructions following our approach to the Soviet Ambassador here last night) you may go as far as necessary toward the following minimum list:

1. Surface-to-surface missiles. (We are prepared limit these to MRBM's and IRBM's and drop mention of those designed for use at sea, and propellants.)

2. Bomber aircraft.

REVIEWED by MOSKOWITZ DATE 9/18/62
() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART
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FOI, EO or PA exemptions

Drafted by: S/AL Thompson
G:UA Johnson

11/7/62

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DOWNGRADE TS to

IO/Mr. Cleveland
DOD/Mr. Gilpatrick
White House/Mr. Bundy

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S/S-Mr. Lubkeman

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FORM DS-322

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S
Reviewed by: Elijah Kelly Jr.
Date: 2/10/92
FOI Exemptions 19

TS
() CLASSIFY as () S or ()
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or ()

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3. Any nuclear warheads for missiles, nuclear bombs for aircraft, or any other type nuclear weapon.

With regard to the Komar-class torpedo boats you might, however, inquire whether Soviets intend to furnish any additional craft of this kind. What we are concerned about are the missiles and bombers with their immediate supporting equipment, and you could explain that point five in your letter to Mikoyan was included to prevent setting up of bases complete except for missiles which could quickly and secretly be brought in.

QUOTE

This modifies the instructions contained in section 2 DEPTTEL 1034, / Definition of Offensive Weapons UNQUOTE.

On submarines you should take the position that we are relying on Soviet assurances against the establishment of submarine bases in Cuba and our assumption that they did not intend to furnish such offensive weapons system to Cuba.

END

RUSK

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